

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/786,445

Applicant(s)

WELCH ET AL.

Examiner

Tekchand Saidha

Art Unit

1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/8/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9-11 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Notice of Allowability**

1. Applicants' amendment after non-final filed November 8, 2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 9-11 & 17 are under consideration in this Office Action. Applicants' amendment and arguments filed November 8, 2006 were found to be persuasive, therefore all prior rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 first and second paragraph rejections are hereby withdrawn.
3. The subject matter claimed in the instant application is also being claimed in copending application, serial number 11/294,087. However, the pending claims are not yet patented. Since the "provisional" double patenting rejection in the instant application is the only rejection remaining, the examiner has withdrawn this rejection and permitted the application to issue as a patent, thereby converting the "provisional" double patenting rejection in the other application(s) i.e. US Serial Number 11/294,087 into a double patenting rejection at the time the application issues as a patent.
4. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 1-8 & 12-16 directed to non-elected inventions without traverse. Accordingly, claims 1-8 & 12-16 have been cancelled.
5. Claims 9-11 & 17 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This Application provides a process for reducing the viscosity of a material comprising a mucin or a glycosylated polypeptide by contacting the material with a viscosity reducing effective amount of a polypeptide which is at least 95%

Art Unit: 1652

identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 (residues 24-886) and having the ability of cleaving mucin or a glycosylated polypeptide.

No prior art reference or sequence of record, however, taken alone or in combination teach the claimed invention or provide motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the skills available in the area of enzymology or molecular biology, to make the invention obvious.

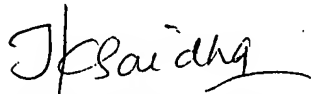
7. Drawings filed 2/25/04 is acknowledged.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tekchand Saidha whose telephone number is (571) 272 0940. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on (571) 272 0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tekchand Saidha  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1652  
Recombinant Enzymes, 02A65 Remsen Bld.  
400 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone: (571) 272-0940  
November 20, 2006